THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Value added services in Andhra Pradesh

The following Value Added Services are expected to be available in Andhra Pradesh during 1994-95:—

(i) Radio Paging Service.

Tenders were invited in July, 1992 from the registered Indian companies for operation of Radio Paging Services on a non-exclusive basis for 27 cities of India. Hyderabad and Vishakapatnam were also included in the tender, Four companies for Hyderabad and 3 companies for Visakhapatnam have been shortlisted for operation of this service. One company for Hyderabad and two companies for Vishakapatnam have already signed the licence agreement and it is expected that this service will be available in these cities during 1994-95.

Tenders have also been invited for operation of Radio Paging Service for-18 territorial circles for rest of the country including Andhra Pradesh Circle.

(ii) Electronic Mail Services.

The Department has issued 17 letters of intent to operatte Electronic Mail Service on all India basis. Four companies have already signed the licence agreement. As per the licence agreement, the licensee has to provide the service within one year of signing the agreement.

(iii) 64 KBPS Data Service via Satellite.

7 companies have been given letters of intent for the operation of 64 KBPS Data Service via Satellite on all India basis and out of these seven, one company has already signed the licence agreement. As per the licence agreement, the licensee has to provide the service within one year of signing the agreement.

2. In addition to the above, new services like Audiotex, Video Conferencing. Voice Mail. Cellular Mobile Telephone Service etc. are also being licensed on a non-exclusive basis.

Orders to indigeneous telecom component industry

1908. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to place orders to indigeneous telecom component industry which make cost effective, climate suitable and cheaper components in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Department of Telecom is procuring only finished telecom equipments and not the components. The components are being procured directly by the manufacturers and as such there is no proposal under consideration of Department of Telecommunications.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Indian telecom switches

1909. SHRI MD. SALIM:

SHRI M. A. BABY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian telecom switches are cheaper and suitable for country's climate than imported ones; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Switching Equipment is procured through open tenders from companies registered to manufacture equipment (including transfer of Tecnoligy) in India and having RBI clearance to do so & are paid for in Indian Rupees. Switches procured have to meet quality standards set by the department including climatic one.